

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6792

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDOC WASHDC

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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COMMERCE FOR BEWT

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ETIO, UR, GE, PL, RO

SUBJECT: USSR TO PROSPECT BALTIC SHELF FOR OIL AND GAS

SUMMARY: IN JUNE THE SOVIET UNION WILL BEGIN SEISMIC
PROSPECTING FOR OIL AND GAS ON ITS PART OF THE BALTIC
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SEA SHELF. THE FULL REPORT IS TO BE READY IN MID-1978.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE USSR'S "TEKHNOEXPORT" HAS SIGNED THREE CONTRACTS
WORTH A TOTAL OF 2.5 MILLION RUBLES WITH THE POLISH TRADE
ORGANIZATION "COPEX" FOR SEISMIC PROSPECTING FOR OIL AND
GAS IN THE SOVIET PART OF THE BALTIC SEA SHELF, ACCORDING

TO TASS VESTNIK, APRIL 20. "COPEX" SIGNED THE CONTRACTS ON BEHALF OF "PETROBALTIC," AND INTERNATIONAL COMPANY WHICH INCLUDES THE GDR, POLAND AND THE USSR. "PETROBALTIC" IS NEGOTIATING WITH ROMANIA TO BUY A SEA DRILLING RIG FOR THE WORK.

2. UNDER THE FIRST CONTRACT, 3,400 LINEAR KILOMETERS WILL BE INVESTIGATED USING THE DEPTH SENSING POINT METHOD. THE SECOND AND THIRD CONTRACTS COVER PROSPECTING BY THE REFRACTED WAVE AND SOUNDING METHODS. THE EXPLORATION WILL BE DONE ENTIRELY BY SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS, USING THREE 20-MAN TEAMS AND TWO SPECIALLY EQUIPPED GEOPHYSICAL SHIPS MANNED BY SOVIET CREWS.

3. THE PURPOSE IS TO VERIFY PROSPECTIVE STRUCTURES WHICH HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED AND TO DELINEATE EXACTLY THE AREAS WHERE OIL AND GAS ARE EXPECTED TO BE FOUND. THE PROSPECTING WILL BEGIN IN JUNE AND "PETROBALTIC" IS TO RECEIVE THE FIELD DATA IN EARLY 1978. THE DATA WILL BE PROCESSED AT COMPUTER CENTERS IN MOSCOW AND RIGA, AND "TIKHNOEXPORT" WILL PROVIDE A FULL REPORT ON THE WORK PERFORMED TO "PETROBALTIC" IN MID-1978.

4. ERECTION OF BASIC EQUIPMENT HAS STARTED FOR LITHUANIA'S FIRST OIL REFINERY, AT THE NORTHERN TOWN OF MAZHEYKYAY. THE FIRST STAGE IS TO GO INTO OPERATION IN 1978 PROCESSING CRUDE OIL FROM THE VOLGA BASIN WHICH IS TO ARRIVE VIA THE "FRIENDSHIP" PIPELINE. THE SAME APRIL 25 TASS VESTNIK ARTICLE ALSO POINTS OUT THAT LITHUANIA'S OWN RESOURCES MEET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ONLY THREE PERCENT OF ITS FUEL DEMAND.

5. COMMENT. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, SIMILAR OFF-SHORE INVESTIGATIONS IN THE GDR AND POLISH SECTORS HAVE NOT PROVED PARTICULARLY FRUITFUL. FULLER EXPLORATION NOW OF THE SOVIET SECTOR, THEREFORE, APPEARS TO BE ANOTHER REFLECTION OF THE PRESSURE ON THE USSR TO FIND NEW ENERGY RESERVES LOCATED CLOSER TO ITS ENERGY-CONSUMING AREAS THAN THOSE IN SIBERIA. WHILE THE LITHUANIAN REFINERY IS BEING BUILT TO HANDLE VOLGA CRUDE OIL, PRESUMABLY OIL FROM THE BALTIC SHELF- IF ANY WERE TO BE DISCOVERED - COULD ALSO BE REFINED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO ITS ORIGIN.

6. WE BRING THESE EVENTS TO THE ATTENTION OF USDOC ON THE CHANCE THAT US FIRMS MAY WISH TO USE THEM TO EXPLORE SEISMIC TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT SALES POSSIBILITIES. IN THIS CONNECTION, FACT THAT ROMANIA IS TO SUPPLY THE SHIP SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT PLEASE PROVIDE ANY AVAIL-
ABLE BACKGROUND ON "PETROBALTIC" AND SEISMIC EXPLORATION IN
THE BALTIC SEA SHELF FOR US TO USE IN SEEKING FOLLOW-UP
INFORMATION HERE.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 28-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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